

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA FEBRUARY 16-28 PART II

02/16/2011

FINGERPRINTING IMMIGRANTS

VO: 29

Recently released documents show that a voluntary program to run all criminal suspects' fingerprints through an immigration database wasn't as optional as advertised. Once some cities refused to participate, the Obama administration changed the rules of the immigration enforcement program known as Secure Communities so that cities had no choice. The administration also considered withholding federal funding and FBI information from resisters and eventually dug up case law to justify requiring cooperation.

The documents were made public by the Homeland Security Department.

U.S. HEPATITIS C CASES DOWN SHARPLY SINCE 1980S

VO: 24

New infections of the liver with hepatitis C virus are far less common these days in the U.S. compared to the early 1980s, a new government study finds. According to the new study by researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the mid-1980s roughly 70 of every million Americans developed acute hepatitis C each year. Between 1994 and 2006, that rate was 90 percent lower: only 7 per million per year.

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02/17/2011

CENSUS NUMBERS TO SHOW HUGE HISPANIC GROWTH

VO: 22

The Hispanic population in Texas is exploding, accounting for two-thirds of the state's staggering growth since 2000 and now making up 38 percent of the total population, new figures show. The Anglo population has now dropped to 45.3 percent of the total. Blacks make up 11.5 percent of the population. The figures, obtained by The Associated Press, were given Thursday to state leaders and are to be released publicly Thursday afternoon. The detailed demographic data will be used to redraw boundaries for Congress and the Legislature. Texas is getting four new

Congressional seats, more than any other state, and Hispanic leaders say more Latino-dominated seats should be drawn.

CANCER DRUG COULD PREVENT BLINDNESS IN PREEMIES

VO: 20

About 50,000 people worldwide are blind -- among them singer Stevie Wonder -- because of this condition, called "retinopathy of prematurity" for its effects on the retina. The study, reported online today in The New England Journal of Medicine, showed that a single injection of Avastin into premature babies' eyes prevented blindness more effectively than laser surgery, which is the usual method doctors use when there are signs of problems. However, further research is needed because the study was not large enough to prove whether the injections were safe.

ATTITUDE MAY AFFECT PAIN MEDS

VO: 27

Researchers in Europe found a patient's expectations about the effectiveness of a pain drug appear to override the medication itself. While lab experiments can never fully simulate real-world pain, researchers say, the findings suggest that encouraging positive thinking in pain patients may be the key to effective treatments.

ZINC WILL HELP YOUR COLD, AT LEAST A LITTLE

VO: 26

Although the precise estimate is still uncertain, researchers found that people who started taking zinc-loaded lozenges or syrups within 24 hours of showing symptoms -- a sore throat, say, or runny nose -- shortened their cold by one day. By comparison, a normal cold lasts about a week. Still, with an infection that currently has no good treatment and leads to an estimated 275 million lost work days a year in the U.S., well, what a difference a day makes. The review, published by the Cochrane Collaboration, an international organization that evaluates medical research, also shows that people taking the supplements tended to have milder symptoms.

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02/18/2011

US TRAVEL TO MEXICO

VO:22

The U.S. government has barred its employees from traveling to the Mexican state where two U.S. federal agents were shot this week. An alert issued Thursday by the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey says American citizens also are urged not to travel to San Luis Potosi state. The two Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were attacked Tuesday on a highway in the state. One was killed and the other wounded. The consulate also says U.S. citizens should "maintain a heightened sense of alert" while traveling in four central Mexico states surrounding San Luis Potosi.

OBAMA TODAY JOBS**VO:46**

Intel Corp Chief Executive Paul Otellini will be named to a panel of experts advising President Barack Obama on jobs, the White House said. Otellini will join the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, created in January to focus on lifting hiring and promoting growth. General Electric Co Chief Executive Jeffrey Immelt was named last month to lead the new outside board advising the White House on economic policy. Other members of the Council will be named in the coming weeks, the White House said.

AVIATION BILL**VO:22**

Congress has passed a broad aviation overhaul that is aimed at modernizing of the nation's air traffic control system. The measure, approved by the Senate on Thursday, will speed up the transition from an air traffic control system based on World War II-era radar technology to modern technology. The legislation would help convert air traffic control to a GPS system. That would allow aircraft to fly more precise routes -- saving time, money and fuel. The Senate has followed the House in passing the overhaul.

HEALTH STRESS BALDNESS**VO:26**

Men who start to lose their hair by age 20 may be at higher risk of developing prostate cancer later in life according to a new study released at the Annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. The researchers looked at 388 men with prostate cancer and 281 healthy men

and found that those with cancer were twice as likely to have started going bald when they were 20. They didn't see the same risk in men who started going bald in their 30's or 40's.

FOOD TAX COULD TRIM CALORIES

VO:20

People are generally more likely to pass on high-calorie food when there is a tax on it -- though it might not matter to everyone, a small study suggests. In a computer-based experiment with 178 U.S. college students, researchers found that the students generally "bought" fewer lunchtime calories when sugary, high-fat fare came with a tax of 25 percent or more.

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2/21/11

WINTER WEATHER

VO: 24

Winter-weary residents probably were relieved that Monday's early morning storm dropped only 3 to 7 inches of snow in various parts of Southwestern Connecticut. With most schools and many offices closed Monday because of the Presidents Day holiday, the storm made less of an impact than it possibly could have. And it certainly didn't meet the snow levels of some of the earlier storms that roared through the region. Nonetheless, it was a reminder that an already harsh winter is not over yet, and it made last week's spring-like temperatures seem like something of the distant past

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2/22/11

GAS PRICES & MEDITERRANEAN CRISIS

JAIME GARCIA - LOS ANGELES, CA

PKG 2:04

Fears were fueled Tuesday by word that Libya's ports were closed and that much of its oil production and natural gas shipments had been suspended by the Western companies that operate the country's fields and pipelines. Crude oil prices soared to their highest levels in more than two years, rising 8.6 percent to \$93.57 a barrel for March delivery in trading on New York exchanges. The price of Brent crude, an equally important benchmark,

stood at \$105.78 a barrel in London. With high oil prices threatening to damage the still-fragile economic recovery, stock markets fell. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 178.46 points, or 1.4 percent, to 12,212.79, its biggest point and percentage drop since Nov. 16. The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index tumbled 27.57, or 2.1 percent, to 1,315.44, the biggest drop since Aug. 11.

CREDIT CARDS

VO: 21

White House official Elizabeth Warren, best known for her outspoken criticism of the banking industry, praised that same group during a Tuesday conference on the one-year anniversary of the credit card laws. A year after new credit card laws curbed interest rate hikes and forced new disclosures, consumers are paying fewer late fees and have a better understanding of what their cards cost, according to a federal study.

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2/23/11

CELL PHONES

VO :21

The radiation emitted after just 50 minutes on a mobile phone increases the activity in brain cells, according to a new government-funded study. The effects of that brain activity are not known, said the researchers, who called for more study. Phones that were turned off did not create the same brain activity. The small study, published in the Journal of American Medical Association, is the first to look specifically at how electromagnetic radiation from cell phones affects glucose metabolism, a normal function, in the brain.

FORD TO RECALL F-150 PICKUPS OVER AIR BAGS

VO :24

Ford Motor Co. says it will recall nearly 150,000 F-150 pickup trucks to fix air bags that could deploy without warning. The government had raised concerns about the problem. Ford said Wednesday the recall covers trucks from the 2005-2006 model years in the United States and Canada for what the company calls a "relatively low risk" of air bags deploying inadvertently. But the recall is much smaller in scope than what the government had requested. Last month, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

told the company the recall should cover 1.3 million vehicles from the 2004-2006 model year, citing dozens of injuries. The recall was first reported by the Detroit News.

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2/24/11

IMMIGRANT ARREST

VO :28

During a four-day operation over the weekend in the Jackson metro area, federal immigration officers arrested 58 people. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said those arrested included convicted criminal illegal immigrants, immigration fugitives and known gang members and affiliates. Some of those arrested also had prior criminal convictions for drug sales, sexual assault, assault and drunk driving, officials said. The arrests took place between Friday and Monday in Brandon, Pearl, Ridgeland, Canton, Carthage, Crystal Springs, Hazlehurst and Jackson.

TEACHERS LAYOFFS

VO :21

This is an anxious time for teachers in Providence, Rhode Island. Some 19-hundred educators have been put on notice that they could be laid off. The mayor says layoffs are inevitable, because some schools will be closing.

MORE UNUSUAL, FEWER USUAL BREAKS WITH BONE DRUGS

VO :23

Women who take bone drugs for several years have a slightly increased chance of suffering an unusual type of thigh fracture, according to a large Canadian study. The findings add to earlier concern over the medicines, called bisphosphonates, whose U.S. labels have been required since October to include a warning about the thighbone fracture risk. However, researchers stress the drugs are effective at preventing fractures of the hip or spine, which are much more common in elderly people with the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis. And the actual risk of having one of the unusual fractures was low, said Laura Y. Park-Wyllie, of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, who worked on the new study.

FORECLOSURE REPORT

VO :24

A foreclosure listing firm says the gap between the average sale price of a foreclosed home and that of other properties grew wider last year. RealtyTrac says it gave homebuyers who snapped up bank-owned homes big discounts. The report also says homebuyers can expect to see more of those bargains this year, because fewer foreclosed homes were sold in 2010 than were taken back by banks. Buyers who purchased a foreclosed home last year got, on average, a 28 percent discount to a non-foreclosure sale. That's up from a 27 percent average discount in 2009. While only a slight increase, the trend suggests a widening price spread between foreclosure sales and other types of residential properties.

401(K) CONTRIBUTIONS RISE

VO :22

The average 401K balance hit a ten-year high at the end of last year. A report by Fidelity Investments found on average, Americans had just over 71-thousand dollars in their 401K retirement accounts. That's up more than 11 percent from a year earlier. Analysts say more of us are bulking up our retirement savings as the economy improves.

MORE PARENTS LETTING TEENS DRINK

VO :24

Would you give your twelve-year-old a beer? A new federal study finds six percent of kids 12 to 14 years old drank alcohol in the past month. A third of them got their drinks at home, or from family members. The report warns, that's risky -- it says young people who start drinking before age 15 are *six times* more likely to develop drinking problems later in life. The statistics come from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

USA ECONOMY / JOBLESS

VO :22

U.S. jobless claims fell in the latest week but remained close to levels linked with persistently high unemployment, Labor Department data released Thursday showed. First-time applications for jobless aid dropped to 391,000 in the week ended Feb. 19, down from 413,000 a week earlier. The four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out volatility, dropped to 402,000, the lowest since mid-2008, before the financial crisis took a turn for the worse. Claims have been bouncing around 400,000 for several weeks, having retreated sharply from peaks above 650,000 seen in early 2009.

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2/25/11

OBAMA GOVERNORS

VO :33

President Barack Obama is huddling with Democratic governors today as many grapple with huge budget gaps. The stated subject of the meeting is how to grow the economy and create jobs. But spokesman Jay Carney says the president knows many of the governors face an immediate cash crisis and are facing painful cuts. However, Obama has urged them to seek compromise -- not the kind of confrontation with public sector unions that GOP Governor Scott Walker in Wisconsin seems bent on. Obama has said Walker's actions look like "an assault" on employee rights.

PROSTATE MARKER

VO :29

A major study finds that a rising PSA level isn't such a good predictor of prostate cancer after all and can lead to many unnecessary biopsies. Most men over 50 get PSA blood tests. Too much PSA, or prostate-specific antigen, only sometimes signals prostate cancer is brewing. But it can also mean a benign enlarged prostate or an infection. The screening often detects small tumors that will prove too slow-growing to be deadly. But there's no sure way to tell in advance who needs aggressive therapy. On the other hand, some men have cancer despite a "normal" PSA count of 4 or below.

POBLACIÓN HISPANA CRECE MÁS DEL 30% EN 16 ESTADOS

VO :27

The U.S. Census Bureau has released population totals for 2010, which shows Utah's growth over the last 10 years. The numbers show a dramatic increase in the state's Latino population and the growth of Utah's population. Since the year 2000, Utah's population has increased by more than half a million people, mostly due to the state's highest-in-the-nation birthrate, which is about 70 percent, according to University of Utah researchers. The other 30 percent move to the state.

US PROVIDENCE TEACHERS

VO :27

The school board of Rhode Island's financially troubled capital city has voted to send termination letters to all of its nearly 2,000 teachers after city officials said the move would give them "maximum flexibility" to make budget cuts. State law requires school departments to notify teachers by March 1 if they'll be laid off the following school year. Providence teachers received notices of potential layoffs before the board met Thursday night and voted 4-3 on sending termination letters. The move means some of the teachers could lose their jobs at the end of the year.

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02/28/2011

US BUDGET

VO: 27

The deeply divided Congress faces a Friday deadline for sending President Barack Obama legislation to keep the federal government funded and running. The House last weekend passed a bill to fund the government through Sept. 30, the end of fiscal year 2011. But it includes spending cuts of about 14 percent, or \$61.5 billion below current levels, and Obama and his fellow Democrats in Congress said they were against it.

GASOLINE PRICES

VO: 28

High fuel prices are putting the squeeze on drivers just as they start to feel better about the economy. Prices are also forcing tough choices on small-business owners who are trying not to charge more for fear of losing cost-conscious customers. Gasoline prices rose 4 percent last week to a national average of \$3.29 per gallon. That's the highest level ever for this time of year

TANNING RISKS KIDS

VO: 26

The American Academy of Pediatrics wants teenagers banned from tanning salons to reduce their risk of skin cancer. More than 30 states regulate indoor tanning by minors, with some banning children younger than 14 or requiring parental permission. Illinois and New York are among states considering bills barring anyone under 18 from indoor tanning. About 8,700 people died of melanoma last year and about 68,130 new

melanomas were diagnosed. Evidence links indoor tanning with increased risk.

HEALTH: FERTILITY

VO: 24

Investigators Of The Johns Hopkins Hospital Baltimore Said That Many Home Tests To Find Out The Extent Of Fertility Of A Woman, The Effectiveness Of The Sperm Of A Man Or A Baby's Gender Is Not Reliable.The Study Showed That Dozens Of These Data Are Not Solid To Confirm The Accuracy Of The Results.These Tests Are Harmful Because Users Would Not Take Sufficient Precautions

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